

Top Secret

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West Germany - East Germany: [redacted]

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The East German (GDR) regime has increased its propaganda attacks against Bonn. They are aimed particularly at dampening hopes of the East German populace for a rapprochement with West Germany. The attacks seek to portray Bonn's refusals to cease "discriminating" against the GDR and to extend diplomatic recognition as stumbling blocks to progress.

Although Pankow still appears committed to attending the meeting in Kassel on 21 May, it is probably building a case for breaking off the talks should it later decide to do so.

On the subject matter of the talks, Pankow continues to stress that Chancellor Brandt must come to Kassel prepared to discuss the GDR draft treaty on establishing normal diplomatic relations with West Germany. It has not, however, precluded the discussion of other topics.

The East Germans may hope to use the Kassel talks as leverage to gain concessions in postal negotiations.

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